

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIBREV 01486 070944Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05
SP-02 SS-15 INR-10 PA-01 IO-13 L-03 H-01 /084 W
-----093419 070946Z /11

O 070900Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1142
USCINCEUR/ZZK/NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO HQ MAC SCOTT IL IMMEDIATE
21AF MCGUIRE AFB NJ IMMEDIATE
21 AF TAW RHEIN MAIN AB GERMANY IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAKAR IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL LIBREVILLE 1486

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, MOPS, EFIN, EAID, CG
SUBJ: SHABA AIRLIFT

REF: USCINCEUR 061156Z JUN 78

1. AS OF TIME OF DRAFTING THIS MESSAGE (070840Z) WE HAVE SEEN NO RPT NO REPLY TO REFTEL AND HAVE NO RPT NO INFO CONCERNING ANY FLIGHT SCHEDULED INTO LIBREVILLE FOR PICKUP OF GABONESE FORCES.

2. MEANWHILE VOA IS BROADCASTING THIS MORNING THAT AS OF TUESDAY JUNE 6, USG HAS EXPANDED ITS AIRLIFT OPERATION AND HAS BEGUN (PAST TENSE) TRANSPORTING GABONESE AND SENEGALESE TROOPS TO ZAIRE. REPORT SAID FURTHER THAT SMALL DETACHMENT IS BEING LOCATED AT LIBREVILLE FOR THIS PURPOSE. GABONESE FOR THEIR PART ARE READY TO GO AND INDEED WERE AT AIRPORT THIS

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PAGE 02 LIBREV 01486 070944Z

MORNING DESPITE FACT THAT WE TOLD THEM YESTERDAY WE DID NOT RPT NOT KNOW WHEN AIRCRAFT MIGHT BE COMING. ON RDTRENGTH OF HQ MAC SCOTT AFB 0601002 JUN 78, WE THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE HERE JUNE 7, BUT WE WOULD LET THEM KNOW DETAILS AS THEY BECAME AVAILABLE TO US.

3. WE FRANKLY DO NOT QUITE UNDERSTAND WHAT IS GOING ON.

VOA REPORT WAS APPARENTLY Sourced TO STATE DEPT SPOKESMAN
ALTHOUGH THIS NOT PERFECTLY CLEAR. WHATEVER, WE STRONGLY
SUGGEST VOA STOP CARRYING STORY FORTHWITH OR AT LEAST UNTIL
SUCH TIME AS PICKUP ACTUALLY MADE. FACT THAT GABONE IS
SENDING FORCES WAS NOT PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE HERE UNTIL VOA
BROADCAST AND MAY WELL NOT BE ACKNOWLEDGED UNTIL TROOPS
HAVE LEFT. IT DOES SEEM TO US THAT ANNOUNCEMENT OF GOG
PARTICIPATION OUGHT TO BE PRINCIPALLY GABONESE MATTER.

4. WE ALSO PUZZLED WITH REPEATED REFERENCES TO FRENCH ROLE.
WITH EXCEPTION OF FRENCH INSTRUCTION TO TELL GABONESE
TO REQUEST AIRLIFT FROM US (WHICH WAS DONE), WE KNOW
OF NO OTHER FRENCH ROLE HERE, AND INDEED FRENCH KNOW MUCH
LESS HERE THAN WE DO. DOES PICKUP OF GABONESE TROOPS DEPEND
UPON SOME FURTHER FRENCH ROLE HERE THAT NOT CLEAR TO US?

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